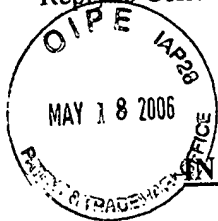


Appl. No. 10/786,873
Communication dated May 16, 2006
Reply to Office Action mailed February 17, 2006



Atty. Docket: 2497 CIP3 CON4
(203-3450 CIP3 CON4)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Kieturakis et al.

EXAMINER: Glenn K. Dawson

SERIAL NO.: 10/786,873

ART UNIT: 3731

FILED: February 25, 2004

DATED: May 16, 2006

FOR: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR DISSECTING TISSUE LAYERS

Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

COMMUNICATION

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed February 17, 2006, please consider the following remarks.

The Office Action rejected claims 2, 3, 5-7, and 9 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 9 of U.S. Patent No. 5,772,680 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,309,896 to Moll et al. In response thereto, Applicants hereby submit a terminal disclaimer in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.321(c) and the fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.20(d). Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the Office Action's obviousness-type double patenting rejection of claims 2, 3, 5-7, and 9 has been overcome.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on May 16, 2006.

Dated: May 16, 2006

Dana A. Brussel

Dana A. Brussel

*Please Enter
OK 6-2-06*